

**SOUTHEASTERN UTAH  
DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

11-27-89

cc: T. Carlson  
T. Plessinger  
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M. Sewell  
D. Williamson  
MRAP file  
P. Mushovic/EPA  
~~R. McLeod /State~~  
from Brian Mathis

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Peter Mygatt  
Public Relations Specialist  
U. S. Department of Energy  
Grand Junction Projects Office  
P. O. Box 2567  
Grand Junction, CO 81502

Dear Mr. Mygatt:

On November 16, 1989 I attended a public comment meeting held at the San Juan County Courthouse in Monticello, Utah. The subject of the meeting was the proposed plan for cleanup of the Monticello Superfund site (Monticello millsite) .

I would like to make a comment relative to the proposed plan for management of the contaminated groundwater below and down-gradient of the site, and of the contaminated surface drainage area of Montezuma Creek which passes through the site.

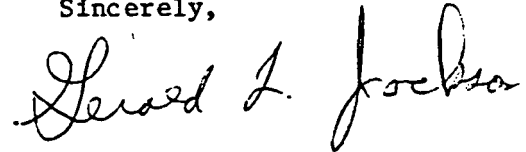
My concern, and comment, is that the present/ future downstream uses of Montezuma Creek water have not been taken into consideration relative to the effect on human health and the environment. The proposed action is to implement passive restoration with institutional controls after the tailings are removed. This was explained by D.O.E.'s Mr. Dee Williamson to mean 60 years of enforced non-use of the groundwater during the natural flushing of the aquifer into Montezuma Creek.

The 50,000,000 + gallons of contaminated water exceed State and Federal water quality standards for 11 parameters, and if unsafe for human and animal consumption as drawn from a well, most certainly is unsafe as drawn from a stream. This would be especially true during the periods of time when stream flow is due essentially to groundwater drainage with no dilution effect from surface water runoff. Even if diluted by surface water, some of this water may add additional contaminants from the contaminated upstream portion of the Montezuma Creek drainage area which passes through the site. This contaminated drainage area has a proposed management plan of Supplemental Standards, which means it isn't considered worth cleaning up.

19026

At least one person was present at the meeting who makes use of Montezuma Creek water downstream of the site, a Mr. Dalton. There may well be others. I propose that the final cleanup plan incorporate a suitable measure of health protection for all present and potential users of Montezuma Creek water.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Gerald L. Jackson".

Gerald L. Jackson  
District Sanitarian

cc: Dave Ariotti, Southeast District Engineer  
Utah Division of Environmental Health